

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR**

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Miyun</i>	DATE <i>6-26-08</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>000667</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE <i>6-27-08</i>
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Cleaved 6/26/08, letter attached.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

JOHN C. LAND, III
SENATOR, CLARENDON, FLORENCE
CALHOUN AND SUMTER COUNTIES
SENATORIAL DISTRICT NO. 36

HOME ADDRESS:
P. O. BOX 198
MANNING, SC 29102
(803) 435-8894

COLUMBIA ADDRESS:
P. O. BOX 142
513 GRESSETTE SENATE OFFICE BLDG.
COLUMBIA, SC 29202
(803) 212-6180
FAX (803) 212-6299



COMMITTEES:
TRANSPORTATION
FINANCE
FISH, GAME AND FORESTRY
RULES
ETHICS
SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

June 19, 2008

RECEIVED

JUN 20 2008

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Ms. Emma Forkner, Director
S. C. Department of Health and
Human Services
P. O. Box 8206
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8206

*Log. Myers
Dir Sign*

Dear Ms. Forkner:

As you know, I have attempted to provide the necessary funds for implementing a sound Medicaid program over the years to those who can least afford healthcare. I appreciate your efforts and assure you that I will continue this endeavor.

I do have a problem with a new updated policy whereby diabetic patients have been restricted to three (3) boxes of test strips a month. Normally, this should be adequate for a majority of patients.

Insulin dependent patients, especially children with insulin pumps, will test 7 to 8 times a day in order to control their blood sugar. Testing is the only sure indication of how they are controlling their blood sugar levels. I have been told that testing is cheap compared to hospitalization with DKA, and we save the Medicaid program funds in the long run. I would appreciate your review of this policy so as not to make an undue hardship on these patients or those providing these supplies.

One provider of these supplies has asked if Medicaid will cover the co-pay from Medicare if they are providing a three-month supply, as is allowed by Medicare. I would appreciate your clarification as it seems somewhat unclear.

I appreciate your help and look forward to hearing from you.

With warmest personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Land, III".

John C. Land, III
Senate District #36

JCL:bns



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Log # 667 ✓

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Forkner
Director

June 26, 2008

The Honorable John C. Land, III
Post Office Box 142
513 Grassetto Senate Office Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-0142

Dear Senator Land:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of your constituents regarding South Carolina Medicaid's coverage of diabetic test strips. We appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance.

Medicaid's coverage of test strips has been reduced from 300 to 150 strips per month. As you stated in your letter, this should be adequate for the majority of patients. However, any Medicaid diabetic beneficiary requiring a greater amount will be able to obtain their necessary quantity. Their physician will be required to provide Medicaid with sufficient medical documentation of the need for quantities in excess of 150 per month.

For dually eligible beneficiaries, Medicare is always the primary payer and Medicaid is the secondary payer. Medicaid will pay the co-insurance and deductible amount for up to a three months supply of diabetic aids billed to Medicare. There are several ways that this may be accomplished. Durable Medical Equipment (DME) staff will be happy to reach out to this provider, if you can tell us who it is, or the provider may call the DME Department for review of the payment options available.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Should you need further assistance, please contact Mr. James Assey, Division Director of Durable Medical Equipment Services, at (803) 898-2876. Your continued support of the Medicaid program is acknowledged and appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Emma Forkner".

Emma Forkner
Director

EF/mgad